

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for preventing rotation of a cementing plug during drillout after cementing operations, the apparatus comprising:

an outer housing;

an inner sleeve disposed in the outer housing, the inner sleeve having open upper and lower ends, wherein an inner surface of the inner sleeve curves radially inwardly from the upper end of the inner sleeve, so that the inner sleeve will engage and cause an interference fit with an outermost diameter of the cementing plug when the cementing plug is received therein, the interference fit being sufficient to prevent or limit rotation of the cementing plug during drillout of the cementing plug.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve defines an innermost diameter between the upper and lower ends, wherein the inner surface of the inner sleeve diverges radially outwardly in both upward and downward directions from the innermost diameter.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inner surface generally defines an hourglass shape.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inner sleeve is adapted to receive at least two cementing plugs, wherein the inner sleeve will frictionally engage both of the cementing plugs to limit rotation of the cementing plugs during drillout thereof.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, the inner sleeve having multiple curvatures on the inner surface thereof.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, the inner surface generally defining an hourglass shape.

7. (currently amended) Apparatus for preventing rotation of a cementing plug during drillout of the cementing plug after cementing operations comprising an inner sleeve for insertion into a casing, the inner sleeve having upper and lower ends, an inner surface of the sleeve having multiple curvatures thereon, wherein each curvature extends radially inwardly to define a diameter having a magnitude less than a maximum diameter of the inner surface of the sleeve, and wherein the cementing plug will be engaged by the inner surface of the inner sleeve at the diameters defined by the curvatures, the engagement between the inner sleeve and the cementing plug being sufficient to limit rotation of the cementing plug ~~[[thereof]]~~ during drillout.

8. (original) Apparatus of claim 7, wherein the inner surface of the inner sleeve defines an hourglass shape.

9. (original) Apparatus of claim 7, wherein the inner surface diverges radially outwardly from an innermost diameter upwardly and downwardly.

10. (original) Apparatus of claim 7, wherein the inner surface curves radially inwardly from both the upper and lower ends of the sleeve.

11. (original) Apparatus of claim 7, wherein the inner surface of the sleeve diverges radially outwardly from multiple locations between the upper and lower ends of the sleeve.

12. (currently amended) Apparatus for preventing rotation of a cementing plug during drillout of the cementing plug after cementing operations comprising:

an outer housing for connecting in a casing string;

an inner sleeve affixed to the outer housing, the inner sleeve having multiple curvatures on an inner surface thereof, wherein each curvature extends radially inwardly to define a diameter having a magnitude less than a maximum diameter of the inner surface, and wherein the cementing plug will be engaged by the inner surface at the innermost diameters defined by the curvatures, the amount of engagement being sufficient to limit rotation of the cementing plug ~~[[thereof]]~~ during drillout.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, the inner sleeve having a length such that two cementing plugs may be received therein.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the inner surface of the inner sleeve has an hourglass shape.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the inner surface converges from both an upper and lower end of the inner sleeve.

16. (previously presented) Apparatus for preventing rotation of a cementing plug during drillout after cementing operations, the apparatus comprising:

an outer housing;

an inner sleeve disposed in the outer housing, the inner sleeve having open upper and lower ends, wherein an inner surface of the inner sleeve curves radially inwardly from the upper end of the inner sleeve, so that the inner sleeve generally defines an hourglass shape and will cause an interference fit with the cementing plug when the cementing plug is received therein.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the inner sleeve is adapted to receive at least two cementing plugs, wherein the inner sleeve will frictionally engage both of the cementing plugs to limit rotation of the cementing plugs during drillout thereof.